

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Wisconsin County Clerks
Milwaukee County Election Commission
Wisconsin Municipal Clerks
Milwaukee City Election Commission

FROM: Michael Haas Diane Lowe
Elections Division Administrator Lead Elections Specialist

DATE: January 27, 2016

SUBJECT: Presidential Preference Ballot Candidates
Petition for Placement on Presidential Preference Ballot

As provided in Wis. Stat. §8.12(1)(a),(b), the Presidential Preference Selection Committee met on January 5, 2016 to choose the candidates that will appear on the April 5 Presidential Preference ballot. The committee is charged with placing the names of all candidates whose candidacy is generally advocated or recognized in the national news media on the ballot. The committee may place the names of other candidates on the ballot as well. Wis. Stat. §8.12(1)(b). The Selection Committee chose 12 Republican candidates and 3 Democratic Candidates.

Candidates who were not selected by the committee may petition the Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) to have his or her name placed on the Presidential Preference ballot. The petition must contain at least 1,000 signatures of electors from each of Wisconsin's eight congressional districts. On January 26th, the Government Accountability Board received a petition from Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente of San Diego, CA, seeking to place his name on the Democratic Presidential Preference ballot. Mr. De La Fuente has qualified for the presidential primary in several other states. The representative who filed the petition said it contained approximately 11,500 signatures. Neither the total number nor whether there are a sufficient number of valid signatures from each congressional district has been verified yet.

The deadline for filing challenges to the petition is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 5. The G.A.B. staff will review the petition, as well as any challenges received, and make a recommendation to the Board. Upon determination by the Board as to the sufficiency of the petition, ballot order will be drawn and a certification issued, in time for Presidential Primary ballots to be printed and made available by February 18, 2016.

In the history of the G.A.B. and its predecessor agency the State Elections Board, a petition for placement on the Presidential Preference ballot has only been submitted once before, many years ago. This is a rare occurrence and the G.A.B. is committed to ensuring that it will not delay preparation and delivery of ballots for the Presidential Primary.

If you have questions with respect to this memorandum, please contact the G.A.B. Help Desk at 608-261-2028 or gabhelpdesk@wi.gov.